

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A navigational assist system comprising a plurality of entry determining elements for determining an advised entry procedure into an entry environment, the entry determining elements being moveably secured together by a means for securing, each of the entry determining elements comprising at least one reference element for alignment of a directional heading associated with the entry environment with an appropriate navigational instrument to determine an initial orientation of an aircraft with the entry environment and each entry determining element being divided into a plurality of entry determining sectors, with each entry determining sector being associated with an entry determining label, the entry determining label informing a user of the advised entry procedure for the entry environment based on the initial orientation.
2. The system of claim 1 where the entry environment is selected from the group consisting of: a holding pattern and a runway traffic pattern.
3. The system of claim 2 where the entry determining elements are selected from the group consisting of: an entry determining element for determining the advised entry procedure for standard entry into a holding pattern, an entry determining element for determining the advised entry procedure for non-standard entry into a holding pattern, and an entry determining element for determining the advised entry procedure for entry into a runway traffic pattern.
4. The system of claim 1 further comprising an entry plan designator associated with at least one of the entry designating labels.

5. The system of claim 4 where the entry plan designators provide the user with a visual representation of a maneuver required to enter the entry environment.
6. The system of claim 5 where the entry environment is selected from the group consisting of: a holding pattern and a runway traffic pattern.
- 5 7. A navigational assist disk system comprising three entry determining elements, with two of the three entry determining elements being used to determine an advised entry procedure when the entry environment is a holding pattern and one of the three entry determining elements being used to determine an advised entry procedure when the entry environment is a runway traffic pattern, the three entry determining elements being moveably secured together by a means for securing, each of the entry determining elements comprising a reference element for alignment of a directional heading associated with the holding pattern or runway traffic pattern with an appropriate navigational instrument to determine an initial orientation of an aircraft and each entry determining element being divided into a plurality of entry determining sectors, with each entry determining sector being associated with an entry determining label, the proper entry designating sector with its associated entry determining label being displayed at the bottom of the entry determining element based on the initial orientation, thereby informing a user of the proper entry procedure for the entry environment based.
- 10 15 20 8. The system of claim 7 where the directional heading associated with the holding pattern in the outbound radial of the holding pattern and the directional heading associated with the runway traffic pattern in the runway heading.
9. The system of claim 7 where one of the two entry determining elements to

determine an advised entry procedure where the entry environment is a holding pattern is used for standard entry into the holding pattern and the other of the two is used for non-standard entry into a holding pattern.

10. The system of claim 9 where the entry determining elements to determine an advised entry procedure when the entry environment is a holding pattern each comprise a set of two lines bisecting said elements, one of said lines comprising the reference element, said two lines dividing the entry determining element into four entry designating sectors.
11. The system of claim 10 where the entry determining labels associated with one of the entry designating sectors informs the pilot a parallel entry procedure is advised, the entry determining labels associated with one of the entry designating sectors informs the pilot a teardrop entry procedure is advised and the entry determining labels associated with two of the entry designating sectors informs the pilot a direct entry procedure is advised.
12. The system of claim 7 where the entry determining element to determine an advised entry procedure when the entry environment is a runway traffic pattern comprises a line bisecting the element and comprising the reference element, said line dividing the entry determining element into two entry designating sectors.
13. The system of claim 12 where the entry determining labels associated with one of the entry designating sectors informs the pilot a left entry procedure is advised or a right entry procedure is advised.
14. The system of claim 7 further comprising at least one entry plan designator associated with at least one of the entry designating labels.

15. The system of claim 14 where each entry designating label is associated with an entry plan designator.
16. The system of claim 15 where the entry plan designators provide the user with a visual representation of a maneuver required to enter the holding pattern or the runway traffic pattern.
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17. The system of claim 15 where each entry plan designator comprises a visually distinguishable feature.
18. The system of claim 17 where the visually distinguishable feature is selected from the group consisting of line color, line configuration and a combination thereof.
- 10 19. The system of claim 7 where the entry determining elements each have a shape and the shape is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, an oval, a square, a rectangle, a triangle, a pentagon, a hexagon, other geometric shapes or a combination of the foregoing.
20. The system of claim 19 where the shape of each of the entry determining elements
15 is the same.
21. The system of claim 19 where the shape of each of the entry determining elements is the different.
22. The system of claim 7 where the entry determining elements comprise a surface and each surface has a texture associated with at least a portion thereof, and the texture
20 is selected from the group consisting of: a smooth texture, a rough texture and a ridged texture.
23. The system of claim 22 where the texture of each surface of the entry determining elements is the same.

24. The system of claim 22 where the texture of each surface of the entry determining elements is the different.
25. The system of claim 7 where the entry designating sectors have a visually distinguishable feature.
- 5 26. The system of claim 25 where the visually distinguishable feature is selected from the group consisting of: a color, a hatching pattern, a shading pattern and a combination of the foregoing.
27. The system of claim 7 where each entry designating label has a visually distinguishable feature.
- 10 28. The system of claim 27 where the visually distinguishable feature is selected from the group consisting of: a color, a line configuration and a combination of the foregoing.